GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1553
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2001
VISIT OF US TEAM
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;GOWDAR MALLIKARJUNAPPA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a US team of Congressional staffers visited Bangalore on April 12, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the purpose thereof; and

(d) the benefits accruing to India from this visit?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. A ten-member delegation of U.S. Congressional staffers visited Bangalore on April 12, 2001. The staffers interacted with a cross-section of people including state government officials, think tanks, and the scientific and business community.

(c) The visit was part of a week-long familiarisation tour to different parts of India undertaken by staffers of important Senators and Congressmen, at the invitation of the Confederation of Indian Industry. The Ministry of External Affairs facilitated meetings with government officials.

(d) The Congressional staffers play a key role in providing crucial inputs to their principals on issues debated in Congress. It is, therefore, considered useful to enable the staffers to gain a first-hand experience of India so that they are well-briefed about the country and its essential concerns.